

# Oceania Weightlifting Federation Constitution and Rules

## **ARTICLE 1 – Name and Objects**

The Oceania Weightlifting Federation is an association founded in 1980. It's official name is 'Oceania Weightlifting Federation', OWF for short. It is composed of the National Federations of the Oceania region governing the sport of weightlifting and affiliated to the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) on the basis of one Federation per country.

### **THE OBJECTS OF THE OWF ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. To organise, control and develop weightlifting in the Oceania region in accordance with the IWF rules.
2. To develop and intensify friendship and cooperation among Federations and lifters of the Oceania region and to assist these Federations in their activities.
3. To resolve disputes that may arise between affiliated Federations.
4. To stage Oceania Championships annually.
5. To establish a list of Oceania weightlifting records.
6. To receive reports from member Federations of their activities and to publish bulletins and to distribute information for the mutual benefit of all affiliated Federations.
7. To organise technical and scientific courses under the IWF for the development and promotion of coaches and referees in the Oceania region.

## **ARTICLE 2 - Logo**

The official logo of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation consists of a blue circle with two palm trees protruding from both the left and right sides. The palm trees are located on top of a green island image that features the text 'founded 1980' – written in capital letters.

The letters 'OWF' are located within the upper section of the blue circle. A graphic barbell is situated on top of the 'W' of OWF with a small dot placed centrally between the 'W' and the barbell. The barbell also protrudes outside of the blue circle, both on the left and right hand sides. Beneath the letters 'OWF', the words 'Oceania Weightlifting Federation' are listed in capital letters.

The colours of the OWF logo are blue, green and maroon.

## **ARTICLE 3 - General Provisions**

1. The Oceania Weightlifting Federation is recognised by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).
2. In its activities the OWF follows the Olympic principles.
3. It forbids all political or religious discussions or demonstrations within the OWF.

4. No distinction is made between countries or persons for reasons of race, colour, gender, religion or politics.
5. Its headquarters is located in the country where the General Secretary/Treasurer of the OWF lives.
6. The OWF recognises only one Federation per country which is affiliated to the International Weightlifting Federation and recognised by their respective National Olympic Committee or by the National Sports Federation in the event where there is no NOC in their country.

#### **ARTICLE 4 - Official Language of the OWF**

The official language of the OWF will be English. All publications of the OWF and correspondence shall be conducted in English. Similarly, the proceedings of the Congress, Executive meetings and Committee meetings shall be conducted in the English language.

#### **ARTICLE 5 - Congress**

1. The highest power of the OWF is its Congress.
2. The Congress will take place annually on the occasion of the Oceania Championships.
3. The Congress is composed of the delegations of the OWF affiliated Federations. Each country may be represented by two delegates but is entitled to only one vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted. Federations shall be represented at the Congress by members of their own Federation who must give proof of their membership and of their appointment by their Federation.
4. Competitors participating in the competition which precedes or follows the congress can be delegates only when there are no officials of their Federation in attendance as delegates, on condition they give proof of their appointment by their Federation.
5. Before the opening of the Congress, a three person commission shall verify the credentials of the Congress delegates. The commission shall consist of the General Secretary and two members of the Executive Committee.
6. The presence of the President and the General Secretary of the OWF is compulsory at all OWF Congresses.
7. When a country of the OWF has no competitors in the Oceania Championships, the organising country shall undertake the expenses of the accommodation and breakfast for one delegate from that country for the period of the Congress.
8. The Congress can only discuss questions on the agenda.
9. Propositions to be included in the agenda must reach the office of the General Secretary of the OWF two months before the fixed date of the Congress.
10. The agenda shall consist of propositions submitted by the affiliated Federations, Executive Committee and OWF Committees.
11. The Congress shall deal with the following matters:

- Propositions submitted by appropriate bodies.
  - Ratification of new members.
  - Examination and approval of the Executive Committee report.
  - Oceania Championships update.
  - Sanctions and all questions in regard to the present statutes which may be of vital importance for the OWF.
  - Approval of Jury for the Oceania Championships.
  - Approval of Referees for the Oceania Championships.
  - Nomination of competitors.
12. Congress held in Olympic Games years will decide on the following in addition to those of the Annual Congress.
- Election of officers, members of the Executive Committee and Committees who will serve until the following Olympic year Congress.
  - Modification of the OWF Constitution and rules.
13. The agenda must reach the affiliated Federations one month before the date fixed for the Congress.
14. The quorum necessary for holding the Congress is 25% of the affiliated Federations. In case the number of delegates is less, only a meeting of the Federations can be held without powers of the Congress and the decisions of such a meeting will be taken into consideration by the next Congress.
15. The decisions of the Congress must be approved by a majority vote of delegations present and shall come into force after publication.
16. The President shall decide the number of speeches allowed to delegates and their duration for the purpose of avoiding the unnecessary prolongation of the Congress.
17. The sessions of the OWF Congress may be public.

## **ARTICLE 6 – Extraordinary Congress**

If requested by one third of the number of affiliated Federations, an extraordinary OWF Congress must be convened by the Executive Committee, within four months of the request being received.

## **ARTICLE 7 – Executive Committee of the OWF**

During the periods between Congresses the OWF is administered by an Executive Committee consisting of:

1.
  - President
  - 4 Vice Presidents (including the mandatory election of a female Vice President)
  - 3 Executive Board Members
  - General Secretary/Treasurer
  - Assistant Secretary
  
2. Any member of an affiliated OWF Federation is eligible for election.

3. The Executive Committee is elected for a term of four years, retiring members are eligible for re-election.
4. In case of vacancy of the President, the first Vice President will automatically fulfil the functions of the President. In the case of vacancy of the General Secretary/Treasurer, the Assistant Secretary will automatically fulfill this position. In both these eventualities the positions will be regularised at the following Congress. In the case of other posts of the Executive Committee, vacant positions will only be replaced during the next Congress.
5. The seniority of the Vice Presidents shall be decided in accordance with the number of votes which they receive at the election. The Vice President with the highest number of votes shall become the first Vice President.
6. Minutes of the meetings shall be kept and the General Secretary must send copies of the minutes to all members of the Executive Committee.
7. The Executive Committee will meet at least once per year.
8. The meetings of the Executive Committee are private.
9. The Executive Committee has the right to appoint special commissions to attend to specified tasks, within its own powers.

#### **ARTICLE 8 - Committees**

Chairman appointed by the Congress are as follows:

1. Technical / Medical / Masters. These positions will be appointed at the Annual Congress held during the Olympic Games year.

The President and the General Secretary of the OWF shall be ex-officio members of all committees.

2. Appointment of an Auditor as defined on Article 19 at a fee to be agreed upon at the Electoral Congress..

#### **ARTICLE 9 - Elections**

1. The election of the Executive Committee shall be carried out at the Congress held during the Olympic Year.
2. Candidatures to the various posts must reach the office of the General Secretary by registered mail with an acknowledgement of receipt at least two months before the date of the Congress.
3. The affiliated National Federations shall propose only bona fide candidates chosen from any affiliated member Federation.
4. The order of voting will be:  
- President, General Secretary/Treasurer, Vice Presidents, Executive Board Members, (Chairman – Technical Committee, Medical Committee, Masters Committee to be nominated and appointed on the day.)

5. With the election of the General Secretary/Treasurer, the Assistant Secretary nominated by the General Secretary, will be automatically elected. No special election is necessary for the Assistant Secretary. The Assistant Secretary has no power of vote and may attend Executive meetings.
6. Candidates shall be elected to one position only.
7. Candidates who are not elected are not automatically eligible for election to another post. Nominations must be made specifically for each post to which the Candidate wishes election.
8. If two or more candidates have obtained an equal number of votes there shall be a second ballot. If they are still equal after the second ballot, the President shall have the deciding vote.
9. The President shall appoint three scrutineers for counting the votes, who shall also distribute and collect the voting papers.

#### **ARTICLE 10 – Duties of the President**

1. The President directs the debate and keeps order at the Congress and Executive Meetings.
2. The President shall attend the Oceania Championships with travelling and accommodation expenses to be paid by the organising Federation.
3. The President shall attend the Executive Committee meetings, when these are held at other times than at Oceania Championships, the travelling and accommodation expenses shall be paid by the OWF.
4. In the absence, the President may be replaced by the first Vice President. In case the latter is not available the President will choose another Vice President.
5. The President shall represent the OWF at the meeting of the IWF.
6. If a new President is elected by the Congress in Olympic year, the mandate of the former President lasts until the end of the current Oceania Championships.

#### **ARTICLE 11 – Duties of the General Secretary / Treasurer**

1. To attend to correspondence with the Federations affiliated to the OWF, the IWF on OWF matters and other sport and non-sport organisations. All correspondence with the OWF should pass through the General Secretary.
2. To disseminate all information concerning Oceania Weightlifting.
3. The General Secretary of the OWF shall attend Oceania Championships with travelling and accommodation expenses to be paid by the organising Federation.
4. To draw up the agenda of the Congress and the various meetings of the Executive Committee and send such to those entitled, one month in advance.

5. Publish all information deliberated at Congress, Executive and Committee Meetings and send to OWF affiliated Federations and members of Committees.
6. In the capacity as Treasurer, the Treasurer shall receive all monies sent to the OWF, pay all necessary expenses and keep accounts of them.
7. All cheques must be signed by two of the three - the President, General Secretary/Treasurer or Assistant Secretary.

#### **ARTICLE 12 - Subscriptions**

The amount of the annual subscription to the OWF is determined by the congress from time to time. The subscription is payable in the first month of the year. Any country which has not paid its subscription for the current year cannot participate or vote at the various meetings of the OWF and its lifters cannot take part in competitions or meetings under OWF control.

A letter of reminder shall be sent to every Federation which has not sent its subscription in January.

#### **ARTICLE 13 - Affiliation**

Membership shall be open to all Federations of the Oceania region recognised by the IWF. A National Federation wishing to affiliate to the OWF must send to the General Secretary of the OWF:

- i) A request for affiliation signed by their President and General Secretary.
- ii) A copy of their Constitution.
- iii) A list of their Executive Committee.
- iv) The quad-annual subscription of US\$100.00
- v) A copy of the approval of their Government or National Olympic Committee for the affiliation.

Any application for membership implies complete recognition of the constitution and rules of the OWF. After deposit of the above five items, the Federation shall be affiliated provisionally by decision of the Executive Committee until the next Congress which will confirm the affiliation.

#### **ARTICLE 14 – Oceania Championships**

1. The Oceania Championships will be contested annually and may be combined with other Regional Championships and/or Games with the authority of the OWF.

The organisation of the Oceania Championships shall be undertaken by the Federation of the host country following:

- 1.1 the guarantee of unconditional entry to all participants from all eligible OWF affiliate countries.
- 1.2 the assurance that such events will be undertaken at the complete risk of the hosting Federation.

2. The Federation organising Oceania Championships shall pay all travelling and accommodation expenses of the President and General Secretary of the OWF.
3. The Federation organising the Oceania Championships must provide free transport for all competitors and officials to and from hotels, competition hall and training halls.
4. National Federations participating at the Oceania Championships shall pay to the organising committee a doping control fee of US\$50.00 for each participating athlete.

#### **ARTICLE 15 - National Championships**

Results of all National Championships (senior, junior and youth ) organised by each OWF member Federation must be sent to the General Secretary of the OWF. Copies of each nation's national ranking lists should also be sent to the General Secretary/Treasurer by December of each year so that an Oceania ranking list can be published.

#### **ARTICLE 16 - Records**

A claim for an Oceania record shall only be valid if:

- (1) The claim is submitted by a recognised officer (for example President or General Secretary) of an OWF affiliated nation. The feat is achieved in a IWF calendar event, with the results verified by the OWF.
- (2) The feat is judged by referees possessing an IWF issued referee qualification;
- (3) The event at which the potential record was achieved was subject to testing by a recognised independent anti-doping control organisation;
- (4) If selected for anti-doping testing the athlete does not record an infringement, as defined by WADA or the IWF.

Oceania Senior, Junior & Youth records may be set at any International Events or National Championships.

Application for Oceania Senior, Junior & Youth records shall be made within one month to the OWF General Secretary and shall contain all relevant particulars i.e. name of lifter, lifter's bodyweight, date of birth, the weight of the barbell, place of performance, date and title of the contest during which the record was broken. The attestation shall be signed by all three referees stating their verdict and countersigned by the National Federation of the lifter.

#### **ARTICLE 17 - Technical Rules**

The technical rules, definitions, penalties, etc. are those of the IWF. Any modification or change to the IWF rules is immediately applicable to the OWF.

#### **ARTICLE 18 - South Pacific Championships**

The South Pacific Weightlifting Championships established in 1993 is an integral and indivisible part of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation and is under the full control and management of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation.

**ARTICLE 19 - Auditor**

**Auditor** means a person independent of the Federation's interest who is a member of an Institute of Chartered Accountants or any other body prescribed pursuant to relevant Companies code. The Auditor cannot be a member of any affiliated National Federations.